



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HFD reminds citizens to be safe when using the barbecue pit

As outdoor cooking heats up this holiday weekend, the Houston Fire Department would like to remind citizens of some simple safety precautions to take when barbecuing.

- When starting your barbecue fire please use charcoal lighter, not gasoline. Gasoline can flash violently in and around the pit causing serious injuries to anyone in the area of the flash.
- It is a good idea to have a fire extinguisher or charged garden hose handy while the fire is going.
- Check the pit frequently to insure that it is okay.
- When the meal is over and you are cleaning up, please do not dump the coals in the trash can. Soak them in water before disposing of them.

The number of fires caused by barbeque pits has been so numerous that the Houston Fire Code addresses them. It states "Barbecue pits outside of buildings shall not be located within 10 feet of combustible walls, roofs, or other combustible material". You can be given a ticket for a fire code violation. These violations have a fine of at least \$250. City of Houston Fire Marshal's can be notified of these violations by calling 713-865-7100 during normal business hours or 713-884-3131 during non-business hours.

So, let's work together to keep the fire in the pit.

If you have any questions, please visit the HFD website at www.houstonfire.org or contact the HFD Public Education Division at 713-865-7120